DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

VOL. II NO. 14 JULY 3rd 1953 Price: 15 Pf., 5 c., 3 d

WAR PLOT CRUSHED

Full Details of East German Situation

Riots in East Berlin and other parts of East Germany on June 17th and the following days were part of an organised plot to overthrow the anti-fascist government. The aim was to prevent the holding of a Four Power Conference on Germany, and to frustrate attempts to secure European peace.

This has become clear from new details of the disturbances which are now available, which show that fascist elements, supported by western imperialist agents, planned to stage "X-day", the code name for the invasion of the German Democratic Republic.

The Soviet Army, in cooperation with the Government of the German Democratic Republic and the people of East Germany quelled the attempted rising within 24 hours.

The West German and foreign plotters have not abandoned their aim, however, and during the past few days official reports have come in of agents, equipped with weapons and radio-transmitters, being dropped by parachute in the southern part of the German Democratic Republic.

During the disturbances, western agents freed from prison convicted S. S. war criminals, and wantonly destroyed food stocks, holiday homes, factories and other installations.

In a full declaration on the situation, issued on June 22nd, the Socialist Unity Party stated openly that the fascist agents and provocateurs were only able to whip up such a degree of disorder because of serious discontent among part of the population. It was frankly admitted that this discontent was the result of the mistaken policy followed during the past year by the Socialist Unity Party.

Here and on the following pages are the main points from the Socialist Unity Party statement:

Events in the German Democratic Republic are closely linked with the development of the international and national situation.

The decisive note in the international situation today is the enormous growth of the strength of the world peace camp in the past few months.

In Korea an armistice is to be awaited; in Italy the people have won a great victory over reaction; in Britain and France the resistance against participation in the American policy of war.

In West Germany the patriotic movement for the re-unification of Germany is growing.

All this has placed the American and German supporters of war in a serious situation. They see their plans failing, and the Third World War, which they wish to unleash as soon as possible, becomes an ever more distant possibility.

In their uneasiness they are ready to take adventurous steps. One of these steps was the fixing of "X-day", the day on which they hoped to capture Berlin and the German Democratic Republic, for June 17th 1953.

This is the attempt to carry the torch of war, just being extinguished in Korea by the people of the world, into Germany from the Berlin bridgehead. The attempt will fail.

Why did the warmongers fix just this date for their fascist provocation against the German Democratic Republic? It was because the Government of the German Democratic Republic had taken measures on June 11th which will lead to a further strengthening of the German Democratic Republic and a strengthening of the struggle for the unity of Germany. In order to make a big improvement in the standard of living of the people, particularly the workers, the Government had taken a series of measures to increase the production of consumer goods, and to help small and middle private industry by granting credits and the necessary materials.

(Cont. on p. 2)

SS CRIMINAL LED RIOT

In the town of Halle, paid western agents stormed the jail und freed a number of war criminals, including Erna Dorn, former SS officer in Ravensbrueck Concentration Camp, who was serving a sentence of 15 years imprisonment for crimes against humanity.

Frau Dorn immediately took active part in the rioting, and was co-opted into the "Action Committee" which had been formed. When order was restored, and Frau Dorn was re-arrested, police found in her pocket a letter which she had begun to write to her father, which stated: "The hour has struck, and we can again put on our beloved SS uniforms."

Halle District Court sentenced Frau Dorn to death for fascist activities on June 22nd.

More details on page 5

(Cont. from p. 1)

WAR PLOT CRUSHED

Persons who had fled from the Republic, including big peasants, were invited to return and to receive their requisitioned property back, and thousands of persons who had been imprisoned were released.

The zonal frontiers and the sector borders in Berlin were opened.

As the result of these new measures, the position of the warmongers became even more shaky, and they took steps to stage "X-day" at short notice.

The Political Bureau of the Socialist Unity Party had openly pointed out the mistakes which it had made in the past year, and had proposed to the Government the first steps to be taken to overcome these mistakes. And at this moment the western agencies decided to stage "X-day" in order to foil the improvement in the standard of living in the German Democratic Republic.

West Germany is the seat of American agencies which have worked out their plans for war and civil war on orders from Washington.

In West Germany and West Berlin Adenauer (West German Chancellor), Ollenhauer (West German Social Democratic Chairman), Kaiser (West German Minister for All-German Questions), and Reuter (West Berlin Mayor) were in direct control of the preparations for "X-day".

In Jakob Kaiser's Ministry, with active American help, a special staff was set up for sabotage and civil war, financed with millions of marks from the coffers of home and foreign imperialists.

In West Berlin Kaiser and Reuter systematically trained and equipped war criminals, militarists and criminal elements in terrorist organisations.

The foreign war mongers and Adenauer, Ollenhauer, Kaiser and Reuter bear the full responsibility for the blood which was spilt in beating off the fascist attack.

In order to launch the provocation the enemy utilised the discontent of part of the population which had resulted from our policy in the past year.

On Saturday June 13th, under cover of a steamer party of a Berlin building firm, together with agents from a number of big factories, the enemy fixed Tuesday June 16th as the date for the provocation.

At the same time columns of bandits armed with fire-bombs and bottles of petrol were sent across the sector borders in Berlin. These bandits were charged with the task of converting the cessation of work by honest building workers into a demonstration against the Government, and to turn this demonstration into a riot by the use of arson, looting and shooting incidents.

At the same time the enemy charged groups of agents in various parts of the Republic with the task of organising similar actions on the next day.

The fascist gangs, sent in from West Berlin, and directed from West Berlin, organised attacks on food stores, apprentices' homes, club-houses and shops; and murderous attacks on officials of the Socialist Unity Party, the mass organisations and the state apparatus who bravely defended the democratic order.

With the help of lists drawn up by the West Berlin agencies, fascists and criminal elements were released, for a short while, from their imprisonment.

It was intended to establish a fascist government in the German Democratic Republic, and to bar Germany's path to unity and peace.

Through the speedy intervention of broad sections of the population, heroically supported by the People's Police, and through the intervention of the Soviet occupation authorities, who imposed a state of emergency, the criminal attack on the German Democratic Republic, upon Germany, and upon world peace, collapsed miserably within 24 hours. The mass blood-bath which had been planned was thus frustrated.

Peace reigns in the German Democratic Republic today, and people are going about their normal work.

A great number of provocateurs have been arrested. The remainder do not dare to show their heads for the moment.

Order has, however, not yet been finally ensured. The enemy is continuing his work of disorganization. In the past few days foreign planes have dropped by parachute groups of bandits equipped with weapons and radio transmitters in Thuringia and Saxon Anhalt.

Trucks loaded with weapons for groups which have not yet been detected have been stopped on the Leipzig-Berlin motor highway.

The hostile forces have begun sabotaging on a large scale.

The propaganda radio station in the American sector of Berlin is roaring away at full strength trying to breathe new life into the wreck of the plot.

A change may be observed in the tactics of the hostile forces. The agents who are still at large have received orders to hide and to camouflage themselves. At the same time they are spreading rumours and attempting to provoke new disturbances.

Since the great mass of workers have now recognized the cause for which their discontent was being exploited, the hostile forces are now trying to provoke difficulty in the countryside.

Attempts are being made to sabotage supplies for the towns in order to sow more discontent amongst the workers.

The task today is to crush decisively the routed enemy, to liquidate entirely the fascist gangs, and to restore order by our own strength and ensure that the new policy of the party and the government is carried out.

For this purpose it is necessary to enlighten those parts of the working class which allowed themselves to be fooled by the hostile forces and to show them that they came under the influence of their sworn enemies, the monopolists and the fascists.

What is the situation today?

The great majority of factories in the Republic did not take part in the strikes. In many cases the workers threw out agitators who visited them

REMEMBER?

"No Government official would admit it, but we are training men to be spies, saboteurs, specialists in the tougher forms of psychological warfare.

"They learn to blow bridges, railroad trains and war plants. They learn secret methods of communication so that they can get back word of what they learn. They merge into hostile populations and spread disquieting rumours."

"Nation's Business", published by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, April 1952.

"In that provision to the Mutual Security Law which authorises the use of up to $ 100 million to aid selected persons ... we have the opportunity to go on the offensive in the cold war ...

"To say that terror would play no part ... is to be utterly inconversant with what constitutes a liberation movement."

U. S. Congressman Charles C. Kersten, "Congressional Record", October 20th 1951.

and called on them to strike, and then continued to work demonstratively.

In many cases the workers took spontaneous pledges to increase production in order to demonstrate their loyalty to our Party and to the Republic, and in order to make up for the loss in production.

But in many factories where there were strikes, but where work has been resumed, part of the workers are embittered. They believe that our Party and the Government have abandoned them. They do not yet realize that the defeat of the fascist provocation was of service to them too, and that it is the basis for their future life.

The great majority of the workers realized suddenly that they were being exploited by their bitterest enemies, the American and the German bosses, when they saw their clubrooms and canteens going up in flames after being set on fire by provocateurs — the clubrooms and canteens which they themselves had worked to build.

At this moment these workers said, "That is not what we want. We have taken the wrong road."

This is a moment which demands deeds and the Party does not intend to play into the hands of the enemies by discussing at this moment how such a state of affairs could arise. For this reason the Central Committee has only this to say today — if masses of workers do not understand the Party, then the Party is at fault and not the workers.

All members and officials of our Party must take the very greatest care to distinguish between the honest workers worried about their own interests who listened to the provocateurs for awhile, and the provocateurs themselves. Honest workers who took the wrong path for a time have not ceased to be honest workers and they must be treated as such.

At the same time, the Central Committee expects all members and officials to take action against the real provocateurs, to expose them in the eyes of working people and to hand them over with their help to the security authorities.

Adenauer, Ollenhauer, Kaiser and Reuter have set their money on war. That is the reason for their attack, that is the reason for the conversion of West Germany into a nest of fascisism and reaction.

Our Party and our Government stand for peace. That is why we have set our course for a peace economy which should serve as a pattern. Our new course is the sharpest weapon of all Germans against every provocation for war on German soil.

PENSIONS UP, MORE HOUSING

New Measures for Better Life

On June 21st the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany proposed a series of new measures aimed at improving immediately the standard of living of the people.

The measures included the immediate increase of minimum old age and disability pensions from 65 marks to 75 marks monthly, and similar increases in other pension rates.

The enormous supplementary sum of 600 million marks will be devoted during the current year to the building of housing in cities and industrial centres. The sum will be obtained by making cuts in the investment in heavy industry.

70 million marks extra will be devoted this year to the improvement of sanitary conditions in the factories, and the building of holiday homes, etc.

A series of important modifications in the social security service dealing with the payment of benefits were also proposed.

Announcing these proposed new measures, the Socialist Unity Party stressed that in the long run the standard of living can only be raised by an increase in labour productivity, the introduction of new work methods, and a proper organisation of the work of nationally owned industry.

SOVIETS REJECT WEST PROTEST

On June 18th the commandants of the West Sectors of Berlin addressed notes to the Soviet Commandant, registering various protests about events in East Berlin.

Major General Dibrova, the Soviet Commandant, replied with the following note:

"I acknowledge the receipt of your note of June 18th. I find it necessary to draw your attention to the fact that your note gives a distorted picture of the events of June 17th (the day of disturbances in East Berlin, ed.), and that I strongly reject, as without basis, the protest contained in your note.

"In this connection I must inform you that the measures taken by the military authorities in the East Sector were absolutely necessary in order to end the acts of arson and other tumults, committed by groups of provocateurs and facist agents sent from West Berlin.

"It has been ascertained that the originators of the disturbances, sent from West Berlin, were equipped with weapons and radio transmitters, and that they had received special instructions. There are numerous proofs of this fact, and it is only necessary to refer to the confession of the arrested Werner Kalkowski, of 34 Naunynstraße, American Sector, who stated that he was one of a group of 90 men who was sent into the Soviet Sector of Berlin charged with carrying out arson, the looting of shops, and other acts of rioting. He and other mercenary agents carried out these tasks for pay, acting as the paid agents of foreign spy services. I am enclosing the text of the confession made by Werner Kalkowski so that you can obtain a full picture. (The text of the confession is given on page 4.)

"In view of these and other facts your note can only be regarded as a futile attempt on the part of the representatives of the three powers in West Berlin to escape the responsibility for the criminal activities of the paid war-provocateurs and those who caused the disorders.

"Under these circumstances the Soviet occupation authorities could not remain inactive, and allow freedom of action to the agents sent from West Berlin. It is only natural for me to ask you how the American, British and French occupation authorities would act if provocateurs and agents were sent from East Berlin to West Berlin to lay fires, carry out pogroms, murders and riots, and to scream for violence.

"Those who caused the fires and looting and other rioting will naturally be tried and severely punished.

"With regard to the restoration of communications between the West and East Sectors of Berlin, I believe it necessary to draw your attention to the fact that the Soviet military authorities see no hindrance to the re-establishment of traffic and other communications between the two sectors of the city, under the condition that the commandants of the three powers in West Berlin take all necessary measures to guarantee that the dispatch of provocateurs and other criminal elements to East Berlin shall cease."

A PROVOCATEUR CONFESSES

"Paid to Organise Disorders"

A number of the paid agents sent from West Berlin into East Berlin and the German Democratic Republic to cause disorders have been arrested and have made full confessions of their activity.

Here is the text of the statement made to the People's Police by Werner Kalkowski, born in 1916 in Guestrow, Mecklenburg, unemployed, who lives in the American Sector of Berlin at 34 Naunynstraße.

Question: Where do you live?

Answer: I live in the American Sector of Berlin.

Q. How did it come about that you were arrested, together with other people, in the course of the attempt to organise disturbances in the Democratic Sector of Berlin?

A. Early on June 17th, I was sent from West Berlin into the Democratic Sector. We were supposed to organise disturbance, and drag the striking workers into the disorders.

Q. Who commissioned you to do this?

Good Pay Promised

A. At 6 p.m. on June 16th, Paul Guenting, whom I know from my home town of Guestrow, and who also lives in West Berlin, came to visit me. He proposed that I should help in organising disorders in the Democratic Sector, and promised that I should be well paid. Guenting said that it would be easier to provoke disorders because some of the workers in the Democratic Sector had gone out on strike. He said that we must convert this strike into an uprising. Since I wanted to earn some money, I told him that I was ready to take part. Early the next morning I got more explicit instructions on the affair.

Q. Give more details of this.

A. Guenting told me that I should go to the Breitenbach Platz on June 17th at 8 a.m. I was there on time, and found at least ninety others, mainly unemployed. Among them were Josef Schneider, Georg Gehrke, Reinhold Marold, Rudolf Jenschinski, Walter Halleck and Guenther Niemetz. The organisers were Paul Guenting and Hans Juergen, together with the American Hiwer (phonetical spelling, ed.), who was in uniform. He had two stars on his shoulder.

Guenting told us that we had the job of going into the Democratic Sector, joining up with the striking workers, and turning the peaceful strike into a mass disturbance. We should demand the overthrow of the Government of the German Democratic Republic.

Guenting also told us that we should take an active part in the disorders. He told us to smash government offices, start fires, kill People's Police, and to use everything, including weapons, against the forces of law and order.

U. S. Officer

The American Hiwer spoke next. He told us that we should do our utmost to organise disturbances, and promised that each of us would be sent on a three month's holiday as a reward. Those of us who were unemployed would be given well-paid jobs in the West Berlin police, he said.

In addition, each of us was promised 50 West Marks, to be paid immediately upon our return from the Democratic Sector.

Q. What did you and your accomplices actually do?

A. We moved up to the Potsdamer Platz (on the border of the Democratic Sector, ed.) in a body, and joined up with strikers. From this moment on we went into action, shouting slogans against the Government of the German Democratic Republic.

Arson Group

In our group about twenty men had bottles of petrol, with which they had been issued from an American lorry. I actually saw Guenther Niemetz, for instance, receive such a bottle.

On the Potsdamer Platz those of us with a bottle of petrol started to set fire to individual buildings. I saw Guenther Niemetz throw his bottle into the state store there.

In addition, many of our group threw stones at the People's Police, and smashed windows. Then we moved, together with the crowd, to the government buildings in the Leipziger Strasse. Here shots were fired at the People's Police and Soviet tanks.

Q. Did you take part in the shooting?

A. No, because I did not have a weapon. I saw, however, how Hans Juergen shot with a revolver at a Russian tank soldier. I don't know if he hit him. My job in the Leipziger Strasse was to work up the crowd by shouting "Down with the Government" and other such slogans. The Americans gave us great support in inflaming the crowd, because they had brought two big loudspeakers up to the sector border, which broadcast propaganda talks in German and Russian. In Russian Anton Loeffler called on the Russian troops not to act against the disturbers of the peace, but to desert to West Berlin.

Six Years For Provocateur

The Berlin City Court sentenced one of the West Berlin provocateurs who took part in the rioting on June 17th to six years imprisonment.

The provocateur, Wolfgang Gottschling, who lives in the American Sector of Berlin, was member of the district committee of the right-wing Free Democratic Party.

Democratic GERMAN REPORT

Subscriptions rates: 4 marks, 8/- sterling $ 1.25 per annum or pro rata, postage paid.

Subscriptions may be paid at the following addresses:

Democratic Germany: At all post offices.

Britain: Collet's Subscription Dept, 40 Great Russell St., London W. C. 1

Holland: Pegasus Boekhandel. Leidsestraat 25, Amsterdam. (Fl. 2.50 annually).

Denmark: Land og Folks Boghandel, Bredgade 37, Copenhagen.

Australasia: A. Keesing, G. P. O. Box No. 4886, Sydney, Australia.

China: Guozi Shudian, 36 Suchou Hutung, Peking.

Nigeria: Tenimasunwon, 6 Oroyinyin St., Lagos.

All other communications should be addressed to:
Democratic German Report,
Friedrichstrasse 167 III,
Berlin W 8,
Germany.

All material in GERMAN REPORT may be freely reprinted. Voucher copies of reprints would be appreciated.

Fascists Burn Communist Offices

Fascist gangsters attacked the offices of the Communist Party in Duisburg, West Germany, on June 18th, and set the building on fire. All the furniture and most of the files were burnt.

Although the rowdies stopped the fire brigade from extinguishing the fire, West German police did not intervene.

In West Berlin, on June 19th and 20th, similar gangs raided the district offices of the Socialist Unity Party in Steglitz and Zehlendorf, American Sector, and set them on fire. West Berlin police stood and watched.

Deputy Prime Minister Kidnapped

Christian Democrat Otto Nuschke, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, was kidnapped on June 17th in East Berlin by fascist rowdies and dragged over the sector border into West Berlin.

Herr Nuschke, who is 70 years old, was man handled before being taken into protective custody by West Berlin police. He was later handed over to the American military authorities and was only returned to the Democratic Sector 48 hours later, after the Soviet High Commissioner had insisted upon his release.

Active for Peace

West German peace supporters pushed a pneumatic drill installation into the river Ruhr at Muelheim on June 18th. The drills were being used to bore demolition chambers in a bridge over the river.

The Muelheim City Council informed the construction firm engaged on the job that they would not grant police protection for their destructive work.

"WOMAN SENTENCED" — SAYS BBC

The Real Story Behind the News

At 1800 hours, Greenwich Mean time on June 23rd the General Overseas Service of the British Broadcasting Corporation stated in a news bulletin:

"In Halle, East Germany, a woman has been sentenced to death for alleged participation in rioting. The woman is reported to have been released from prison by the rioters."

The "impartial" and "objective" B. B. C. deliberately suppressed the news that this woman was one of Hit'er's inhuman concentration camp wardresses, an officer in the S. S., who had been serving a sentence of 15 years imprisonment for crimes against humanity.

Her name was Erna Dorn, and under the nazis she was in command of a work squad in the women's concentration camp of Ravensbrueck.

During the rioting on June 17th, western agents released her from jail. She held an incendiary nazi speech in the city square immediately afterwards, but was soon re-captured.

On June 22nd the Halle District court sentenced her to death under Article 6 of the Constitution of the German Democratic Republic which bans war propaganda, and under Control Council Law 38, directed against neo-nazi activities.

Here is an extract from the court record:

Court President: What sort of work did you do for the Gestapo?

Dorn: I did investigation, and carried out searches in the houses of Communists and Socialists.

President: How many people did you have 'liquidated'?

Dorn: 80 or 90 at the most.

President: From 1942 on, you were working in Ravensbrueck Concentration Camp. What work did you do?

Dorn: I registered the incoming prisoners.

President: Did you mistreat prisoners?

Dorn: Sometimes I hit them with a rubber truncheon, sometimes I kicked them.

President: You were sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for crimes against humanity. Where were you imprisoned?

Dorn: In the Kleine Steinstrasse Prison in Halle.

President: On June 17th you spoke on the market square. How did you, as a prisoner, get there?

Dorn: The prison was stormed. My cell door was opened, and two people came in and asked me why I was in prison. I said "Crimes against humanity", and they said "Just the sort of people we want".

President: What did you do then?

Dorn: I went to an address which I knew of for such cases, and changed my clothes. Then I wrote a letter to my father in West Germany. (The letter, which was produced in court, stated "The hour has struck, and we can again put on our beloved SS uniforms.")

President: Were you in communication with your father during your period in prison?

Dorn: Yes. At the end of January this year I got a letter from him in which he wrote that "X-day" was not far off, and that I should soon be out of prison. He wrote that he was in close contact with the "Fighting Group Against Inhumanity" (West Berlin spy group, ed.) and that everything had been prepared.

President: What did you do after you had changed your clothes and written the letter?

Dorn: I went to the market place. Wherever I saw People's Police, I called upon the crowds to attack them. I cannot remember my exact words.

PARACHUTISTS DROPPED . . .

People's Police have captured three parachutists who were dropped by an American military plane near Sangerhausen, in the southern part of the German Democratic Republic, on June 16th.

The parachutists, who were equipped with weapons and a radio transmitter, confessed that they had been given the mission of causing disturbances and personally leading riots.

. . . U.S. OFFICERS HELP

During the rioting in East Berlin on June 17th, an unusually large number of American cars were seen in the streets. One car, with the registration number 3 H 2318, appeared again and again at the centre of disturbances, and the occupants, two American army officiers in Uniform, gave instructions to riot ringleaders.

NOTICE

In order to bring our readers the latest news of the smashing of the fascist attack on the German Democratic Republic, this issue of GERMAN REPORT has gone to press some days earlier than usual.

Because of the holiday season the next issue will appear at the end of July.

The Editor

HITLER'S GENERALS WORK FOR WEHRMACHT

Steps to Re-form Nazi Army

Today in West Germany all preparations have been completed for the open raising of a new Wehrmacht, led by the same generals and ofifcers who 15 years ago began their march of pillage and rapine across Europe. Here is a summary of the main steps which have led up to this appalling development:

Spring 1944: Plans for Future

Acting on the personal instructions of Gestapo chief Himmler, SS General Franke-Grietzsch drew up tentative plans for reorganising the SS after the expected defeat of Hitler. In December 1944 officers of the Army War Academy, led by General Staff, Major Arnd Heinrich von Oertzen, drew up similar plans for the Wehrmacht, showing how it could cooperate with the western allies against the east.

May 5th 1945: Enter the Americans

The "von Oertzen Plan" was handed over in Bavaria to the U. S. General "Blood and Guts" Patton, the commander in that area.

Summer 1945: Halder's General Staff

On American instructions, Colonel General Franz Halder, Hitler's former Chief of Staff, in a special prison camp in the U. S. Zone, gathered together high-ranking officers who had played a leading part in the attack on the Soviet Union to "write an account of the campaign for the Historical Department of the U. S. Army."

Summer 1946: Marshal's Memoirs

Convicted war criminals, such as General Wilhelm Speidel and Field Marshal Kesselring, confined in prisons at Landsberg, U. S. Zone, and Werl, British Zone, are commissioned to write their "memoirs," which actually consist of military memorandum for future action.

1947—1948: Mercenaries Forward

During this period the "labour companies" in the three western zones, composed at first of German prisoners of war and engaged on menial labour for the occupation forces, are gradually armed and converted into mercenary bodies of soldiers.

December 21st 1948: "Collective Security"

Carlo Schmid, Deputy Chairman of the West German Social Democratic Party, demands the inclusion of German troops in "a system of collective security for West Europe" under foreign command.

August 1st 1949: New Siegfried Line

West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer declares he is deeply shocked that West European staff chiefs should debate new "Siegfried Line" in West without consulting West German authorities. Adenauer already is in possession of complete memorandum on West German rearmament drawn up by General Hans Speidel.

October 7th 1949: Operation Phoenix

Details leak out of "Operation Phoenix", the plan for West German remilitarisation drawn up by two of Hitler's tank generals, Heinz Guderian and Hasso von Manteuffel. The plan, which provides for an army 460,000 strong, forms the basis for the future steps.

October 9th 1949: Army Requested

Chancellor Adenauer publicly requests western allies to allow establishment of West German Wehrmacht.

November 29th 1949: U. S. Says Yes

Louis Johnson, Secretary of Defence, declares at West Berlin press conference: "West Germany must make a certain contribution to European defence."

(From "Krokodil"; Moscow)

December 11th 1949: Military Aid

Western allied commission for "Military aid programme for West Germany."

January 19th 1950: Manteuffel Adviser

General Hasso von Manteuffel, who led the retreat of Hitler's armies from the Don to the Danube, named as Adenauer's military adviser. The "Bruderschaft", association of former nazi staff officers, emerges into the open and begins to play politics.

Summer 1950: A Count Takes Over

Count Schwerin, former commander of Hitler's 116th Panzer Division, took over the job of Adenauer's adviser. He was removed in October 1950 after his plans for a West German Wehrmacht three-and-a-half-million strong had been prematurely published.

October 25th: Lieutenant Blank's Turn

To camouflage his intentions, Adenauer names Theodor Blank, Lieutnant in Hitler's army, and prominent "Christian trade unionist" as head of the "Office for Questions Connected with the Increase in Allied Troops," the cover name for the new War Ministry.

September 1951: Washington Decision

The British, French and American Foreign Ministers, meeting in Washington, take the final decision that German troops should be included in the "Western European Army." In Germany various "Soldier's Leagues" are set up openly, and register thousands of officers N.C.O.s for a new Wehrmacht.

December 15th 1951: Navy and Luftwaffe

The "Blank Office," the camouflaged War Ministry, is enlarged to include naval and air force departments.

January 19th 1952: "Selective Conscription"

"War Minister" Blank announces in a radio talk that the new Wehrmacht, 400,000 strong, will be raised by a system of "selective conscription."

March 13th 1952: "March to the Urals"

West German Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, speaking in Washington, proclaimed "The final aim of my Government is the unity of Europa up to the Urals."

May 26th 1952: Bonn Treaty

Chancellor Adenauer signs the Bonn and Paris treaties, committing West Germany to the raising of an army under American command.

(cont. at bottom of next page)

PROFILE

DR OTTO JOHN — WITCH HUNTER

By Karl Eduard von Schnitzler

One day in 1952 a powerful American-made car rammed a German car on the motor highway between Dannenberg and Hamburg ,in the British Zone.

The ramming was so skillfully carried out that the big American car was scarcely scratched, and could disappear at high speed, while the German car smashed into a tree, killing the occupant. The dead man was named Dieter Daerr, and he was one of the closest collaborators of Dr Guenther Gereke, former member of the Cabinet of Lower Saxony, and one of the leading middle-class opponents of the West German remilitarisation policy.

Investigations showed that a few days before the "accident" a man giving the name of Zimmermann had appeared at Herr Daerr's house. Zimmermann had flashed the badge of the West German "Office for the Protection of the Constitution" and had then attempted to win Herr Daerr, by the use of threats and the offer of a huge bribe, to support West German Government policy.

His attempts were unsuccessful. A few days later Herr Daerr was dead, and a few days later still the files on his "accident" were delivered to the Allied authorities by the German police, and have never been returned.

But enough had already been discovered to show that the tracks led to a newly-built five storey building in the midst of ruins round Cologne Cathedral. The address cannot be given, for this curious road has no name-plates, the house has no number-plate, and the phone number is not in the telephone book.

But all five stories in this office building are in fact occupied by the organisation with the fine-sounding name "Office for the Protection of the Constitution". A few years ago, in Hitler's Germany, a similar organisation was known as the Gestapo, in America today it is known as the F. B. I., and in Britain as M. I. 5 and the Special Branch of Scotland Yard.

The F. B. I. has Mr Edgar Hoover, the M. I. 5 has Sir Edward Sillitoe, the Gestapo used to have Himmler and Kaltenbrunner, and this office in Cologne has its Dr Otto John. Dr John has taken over the Gestapo traditions, and brought them up to date with the aid of the latest American and British methods.

Dr John is today 43 years old. When Hitler came to power in 1933 he was a lawyer in the judicial service. He was incorporated in the Gestapo, and his first big job was participation in the enormous frame-up of Dimitrov and his colleagues in the Reichstag Trial.

Later he transferred to service with "Lufthansa", the German official air-line, the foreign offices of which formed part of the nazi spy network, and got training in another facet of Hitler's preparations for world conquest.

But Dr John was a realist, and soon after the battle of Stalingrad, when it was clear that Hitler was not going to win the war, he began his "strategic withdrawal". The "prepared positions" to which he withdrew were those reactionary generals and industrialists in Germany who planned to throw overboard Hitler, who had failed in his attempts to overcome the Soviet Union, and to continue the war against the East with the help of America and Britain.

In 1944 Dr John was selected by this group to make contact with the West, through Madrid, and he travelled off busily to Spain, after betraying a few genuine anti-nazis to the Gestapo to cover his tracks.

He was successful in establishing contact with the right reactionary circles in America and Britain, and returned to Berlin to carry out their instructions.

But in the jungle of intrigue and counter-intrigue which was Berlin in 1944, some of the Gestapo members who still supported Hitler got wind of John's new job. Talking about this period later, Dr John said quite frankly "I was warned by my British friends", and fled promptly back to Franco Spain, and then on to Portugal.

Here he got involved in a brawl, and was arrested. In a later interview with the London journalist Clara Reyersbach he said: "I would have been deported to Germany if British and American friends had not taken me to England by plane."

It should not be forgotten that all this happened in 1944, many months before the end of the war, and that Dr John was a self-confessed Gestapo agent.

•

Dr John went back to work in his old branch in 1950. He was recommended for the job of head of the West German secret police by Dr Gisevius, another former Gestapo man, who is today unofficial adviser on German affairs to Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. His "Office for the Protection of the Constitution" is under the direct supervision of Mr Gault McGowan in Heidelberg, the representative in West Germany of the American F. B. I.

His job is, of course, not to "protect" the constitution, but rather to destroy it. Using the methods which he learned from Goering in the Reichstag Fire frame-up, he and his hundreds of employees forge documents, plant evidence and corrupt and terrorise witnesses in the same way as does Joseph McCarthy, their model witch-hunter in Washington.

But sooner or later the real German patriots will see to it that Dr John answers for his crimes at the bar of the German people.

Summer 1952: General Staff

Immediately after the signature of the Bonn Treaty the old German General Staff was revived in the form of the "Delegation for the European Defence Community". The General Staff is headed by Hitler General Hans Speidel, General Adolf Heusinger, Hitler's Chief of Operations, and General Staff Colonels Count Johann Adolf von Kielmannsegg and Bogislav von Bonin. Other leading figures are Colonel Joachim Freyauf, Guderian's operations officer, Colonel Achim Oster, and tank specialist Major Axel von dem Bussche.

June 1953: More Officers

Total strength of the Bonn "War Office" includes over 290 officials, almost all former nazi officer. In "Defence Community H. Q." in Paris, 230 further Hitlerite military experts are employed.

•

The people of West Germany have not just sat back and watched this dangerous development. Every month the peace movement becomes stronger, and the opposition to the formation of a new Wehrmacht under nazi officers grows.

You can help the people of West Germany in their fight by exposing the facts about West German remilitarisation, and by urging your union branch, church group or other organisation to support the world-wide demand for a Four Power Conference which will bring about German unity and remove the danger of a new West German Wehrmacht thirsting for revenge.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

"Tell me who his friends are, and I shall tell you who he is" said the great German poet Goethe.

And this sentence was more than ever applicable to the recent riots and disturbances in East Berlin.

President Eisenhower spoke warm words of congratulation. When the President of the United States sends his congratulations to people who claim to be striking, that makes me very suspicious.

In West Germany, of course, every reactionary in sight, from Chancellor Adenauer on down, suddenly began to mouth phrases about "brave fighters for freedom, democracy and German unity."

It is Adenauer, of course, who has been pressing ahead with the formation of a new West German Wehrmacht, officered by Hitler's generals, who are well known as protectors of "freedom and democracy". As for German unity, it is Adenauer himself who has obstructed every move in this direction for the past few years.

But it is when we come to West Berlin that the picture becomes crystal clear.

American Support

While provocateurs were looting, laying fires, and beating people up in the streets of East Berlin, a message of congratulation and support for the rioters was read over the American controlled radio in West Berlin.

The message was signed by such "veteran democrats" as Carl-Huber Schwennicke, Chairman of the West Berlin right-wing Free Democratic Party. GERMAN REPORT dated June 20th 1952 printed a photo of Schwennicke's war-time employment card in the Siemens factory in Berlin which bears the interesting note: "Security agent of the Gestapo".

Another signatory was Ernst Scharnowski, Chairman of the West Berlin trade unions. During the war, Scharnowski made big profits from slave labourers.

He himself stated at a press conference in West Berlin on August 21st 1948:

"I became manager of the Stettin Net Factory, got rich, and bought myself a big country house. We had our work done by the prisoners in the jail — Jews, Poles, Belgians and Germans."

•

From my office window looking out onto the Friedrich Strasse in the centre of Berlin, I had a front line seat for the riots.

As a foreign correspondent, I have seen disturbances, demonstrations and clashes in many different cities and countries, but the thing which struck me most forcibly about the events in Berlin on June 17th was the almost superhuman forbearance of the People's Police and the men of the Soviet Army who helped to restore order.

For a whole morning crowds demonstrated more and more noisily in the centre of the city.

The police did not intervene at first, although they could well have done so, because they knew that a very large proportion of the demonstrators were honest workers, with real grievances, who had been misled by provocateurs and western agents into coming onto the streets.

But as the West Berlin rowdies grew wilder and wilder, the decent elements realised that they were being exploited, and left the demonstrations, and it was then that the police and the Soviet soldiers cleared the streets and restored order, also with enormous discipline and an absolute minimum of shooting.

What were the rowdies and agents actually doing? Here are some of the things which I myself saw happen:

A bookstore window was smashed in, and books of all sorts were burnt, in true nazi style.

A red flag, traditional symbol of the workers' movement, was torn down and burnt in the street. The screeching crowd, largely teen-agers in zoot suits or Miami shirts, which are not worn in East Berlin, pranced round singing a nazi song. A foodshop was looted, flour and sugar was strewn over the roadway, and the young louts wantonly smashed thousand of eggs.

Now things like this are just not done by a genuine workers' demonstration, which is protesting against higher work norms and calling for lower prices.

If the demonstrators are hungry — and these demonstrators were not — they may raid a food store, but they do not throw away the food. Windows may get smashed, but the demonstrators do not make bonfires of the books.

And workers do not burn red flags, particularly in a country like Germany, where the red flag is traditionally the flag not only of the Communists, but just as much the flag of the Social Democrats and trade unionists.

After the riots, things returned to normal in East Berlin at great speed, and only one day later practically the only outward sign that anything unusual had occurred was the Soviet patrols at street corners.

I am writing these lines on June 22nd, the 12th anniversary of Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union. That war of conquest ended in defeat, but in one part of Germany, West Germany, the Krupps and the Schachts, who launched that war have crept out of their holes are back in the saddle again.

They are intent on a war of revenge, and it is no exaggeration to say that the events of June 17th in East Berlin was the first blow, or the general rehearsal for a third world war.

The decent people of East Germany, who have learned from the past, smashed the attempt with the help of the Soviet Soldiers.

And they are determined to smash any other attempt to plunge Germany and the world into a new war.

Eastern Workers?

"From an early hour this morning I marched with the workers myself . . ."

Reginald Peck, Daily Mirror West Berlin Correspondent, London Daily Mirror, June 18th.

"I was in the vanguard of the crowd (attacking East Berlin police headquarters) . . ."

Peter Pernyes, Reuters Berlin Correspondent, Manchester Guardian, June 18th.

"At the Brandenburg Gate, too, many hundreds of West Berliners merged with the rioters . . ."

Manchester Guardian, June 18th.

". . . it may be true that the riots have been partly spurred on from the Western sectors."

A Diplomatic Correspondent, Manchester Guardian, June 18th.

And here is a footnote at the bottom of a full page of reports about the East Berlin disturbances in the London Daily Express, June 18th:

"New York, Wednesday — The New York stock market today wiped out the £ 446,400,000 loss of the last two sessions."

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet, Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8, Telephone: 22 62 68. Printed in Germany by (36). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 752 des Presseamtes der DDR